

**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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Reading

May 12, 1997

Ms. Kerry L. Burke
Resource Coordinator
Mill Creek Conservancy
P.O. Box 188
Los Molinos, CA 96055

Dear Ms. Burke:

Thank you for your May 1, 1997 letter of comment regarding the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERPP) Executive Summary. We appreciate your comments and are responding as follows:

Comment #1. We have corrected the status of Mill Creek diversions. This will be incorporated in the draft vision for the Butte Basin Ecological Zone which includes the Mill Creek Ecological Unit. This will be contained in ERPP Volume II: Visions for Ecological Zones.

Comment #2. Our target is neutral toward harvest of salmon and steelhead in Mill Creek. The target is more global in nature and based on the premise that overall ocean and inland harvest strategies need to be developed which protect adult spring-run chinook salmon and steelhead destined to return to Mill Creek. CALFED has not suggested a need for additional hatcheries or hatchery production anywhere in the Sacramento Valley segment of the ERPP study area.

Comment #3. The ERPP Executive Summary contained very little narrative regarding cooperative endeavors, stewardship, and collaborative programs. We will present this information in the ERPP Volume II: Visions for Ecological Zones. We are structuring that volume to identify and acknowledge local efforts such as the Mill Creek Conservancy's watershed program. We have included much of the information you provided to us in your "Strategy Report" into the ERPP section titled "Integration with Other Restoration Efforts".

Comment #4. We will update our vision for chinook salmon to reflect your suggestion. This will be presented in ERPP Volume I: Visions for Ecosystem Elements.

Comment #5. We are aware of the proposed status of inland steelhead and are awaiting suggestions from the National Marine Fisheries Service on the recommended approach. The ERPP will recommend the marking of all hatchery produced steelhead to potentially allow a selective fishery for marked (hatchery) fish and the release of unmarked (wild) fish.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Comment #6. The ERPP does not recommend additional hatchery programs for salmon or steelhead. The ERPP strategy is to restore ecological processes that create and maintain habitat and the reduction or elimination of stressors that impair ecological processes, habitats, and species.

Comment #7. Outflow is to the bay whereas inflow is to the Delta.

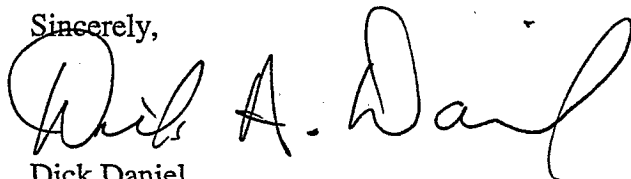
Comment #8. The proposed flows are in addition to existing base flow conditions and, in some years, will coincide with the fall or late-winter emigration of yearling steelhead and some runs of chinook salmon.

Comment #9. The mid-1960s was chosen as it represents a period prior to the larger scale water diversions that began in the late-1960s. It represents a time when many fish species were at high levels of abundance.

We have made much progress lately in completing a draft of the ERPP and presently anticipate releasing the plan for public comment in mid-June. During the 45-day review period, which begins after all three volumes are released, we expect to schedule numerous technical meetings to discuss the elements of the ERPP and to begin making corrections. Your next opportunity to assist us will be during the public review period. We look forward to working with the Mill Creek Conservancy to refine recommendations for Mill Creek

Please contact Mr. Terry J. Mills, CALFED Fish and Wildlife Advisor, should you or other members of the Conservancy have questions or comments regarding the ERPP. Terry can be reached at the letterhead address, by telephone at (916) 653-3244, or by E-mail at tmills@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick A. Daniel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dick" being more prominent.

Dick Daniel

Assistant Director for Habitat Restoration

cc: Mr. Terry J. Mills